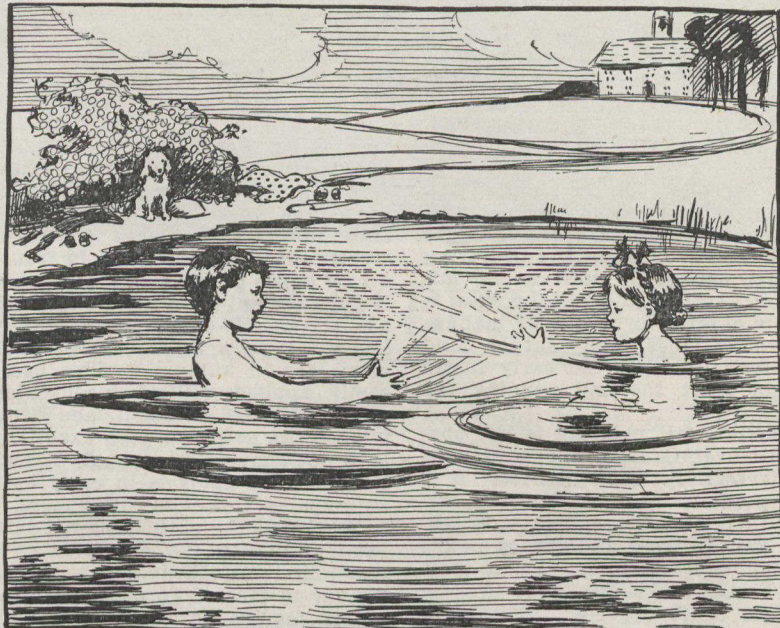


Why Willie and Lillie Were Late - By Estelle M. Kerr.



1. The sun was shining harder than it ever shone before, The children had to go to school, and found it quite a bore; So when they passed beside a pond, they thought they'd take a swim, "There's nobody to see us here," said Willie, "let's jump in!"



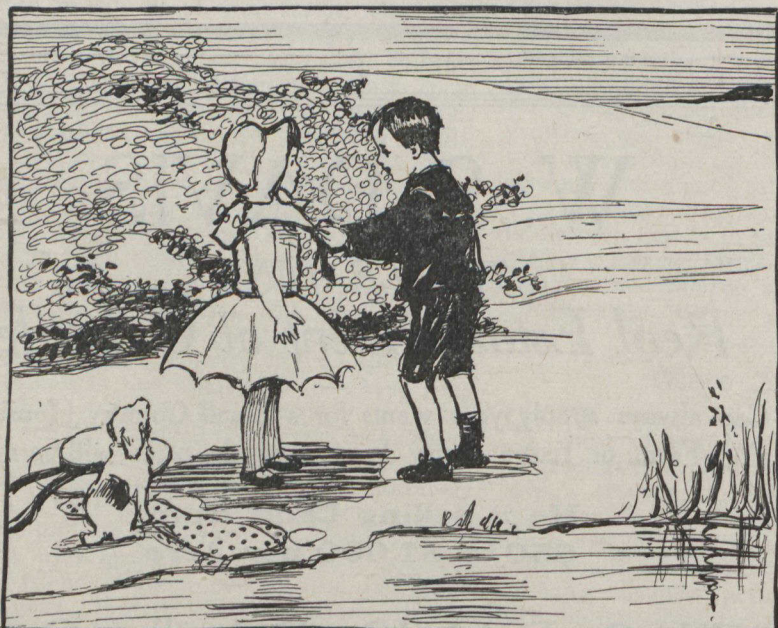
2. They hid behind a berry-bush and took off all their clothes, With Toby left to guard them and to keep away their foes. They splashed and dived, and ducked, and swam, and cried, "the water's fine!" Just as the distant school-house bell rang out the hour of nine.



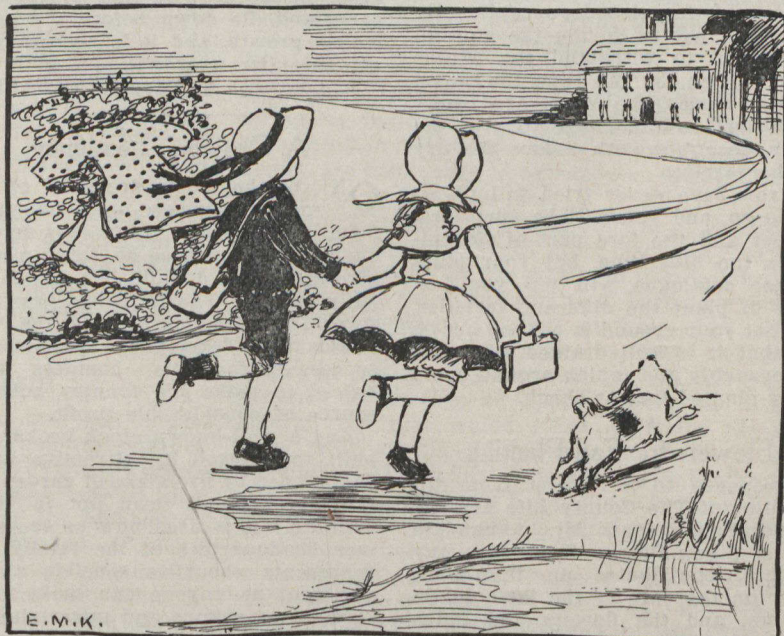
3. At that same fatal moment, lo, a motor car whizzed by; It raised the dust, it raised the wind which blew their clothes sky high. And Willie's sock fell in the pond, and so did Lillie's dress At that, the darling little girl cried out in great distress.



4. Then Toby swam and got her frock, but it was far from dry, And nearly all the other things were on the ground close by; But Lillie cried, "Oh dear, Oh dear, whatever shall I do? I cannot go to school like this." (I don't blame her, do you?)



5. Then Willie slit her parasol: it made a splendid skirt, And with his sailor collar, he trimmed up Lillie's shirt. The costume proved becoming, and the children were so proud, And Toby seemed to like it for he barked out very loud.



6. They spread the dress upon a bush, where it would quickly dry. "We'll leave it there," they said, "until the next time we come by." They then took hands and scampered off, refreshed, and clean, and cool, But grieved to think their lovely swim had made them late for school.